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Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4): Correspondence

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8-24-1879

# Letter from Anne Whitney, Belmont, Massachusetts, to Adeline Manning, 1879 August 24

Anne Whitney

Wellesley College Archives

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- Sunday Morning - Belmont -  
Aug. 24 -

I woke up one night - last  
week in such an anguish &  
desire to see you that I thought  
I would write at once & ask  
you to come. But ~~that~~ would  
it seem to you I thought - what  
dreadful inconvenience it would  
put you to - how hard if a  
Conflict should arise between  
your duty & your  
wish to comply with my demand  
Daylight brought me strength  
& determination & I frowned  
back upon the foolish self  
of the night before - glad  
that you would be in happy  
ignorance of my weakness  
& selfishness - But - I  
have not courage not to tell  
you all - & there is room as  
always for you to chide - if  
you will.

And now let me say  
that my arrangements with  
the new housekeeper <sup>there at 92</sup>  
admit of your being at all  
times or no times - just as  
you feel inclined - It is only  
that ~~for~~ the 3 months ending  
1st oct., I make a little  
dip in the plan of wages -  
I do not like to feel an alien  
in our own house all summer -  
I want it more on the plan  
of a home for us both.

As soon as you wrote  
me of your probable absence  
next winter I determined  
at once, what I had ~~really~~  
<sup>only</sup> partially decided upon ~~before~~  
then - not to take a boarder  
this year. Much as I should  
like the additional income  
I am sure that the additional  
care of even one <sup>person</sup> is not an  
integral part of the family



though so unobjectionable in  
many ways as Ship Sale,  
yet Complicates matters  
in the domestic field enough  
to mar my hours of work.  
But the determining point  
is this - that if you are  
to be absent I can practice  
for myself what economics  
sum best - or otherwise do  
as I like - I do not mean  
because you will be away -  
but because no other <sup>way</sup> will present  
to constrain me.

I hope to have Bessie  
this winter - but know nothing  
as yet. Because I have not  
spoken with her. She came  
to the house the other day &  
said she was wanting a place.  
I have just written to ask  
her to call. If my studio  
south closet - can be turned  
into a bed-room - & I have

a plan for it - in which  
I lodge a girl who may keep  
the most of her things down  
stairs - I think it - may be  
not a little towards oiling the  
domestic gear.

Your little studio is  
in order & except that the  
books are not on the shelves  
but the shelves are up - &  
the closet - &c. &c. Nothing  
lacks but the rug - It will  
be very sweet -

Turning the Carpet - re-  
papering the soiled places -  
& new painting the closet &  
wood work have done a  
great deal for Miss Davis -  
now your room - unless you  
prefer still your couch by  
mine.

The parlor is almost  
complete - it lacks still  
the finishing of the floor  
which will be done this week.